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Editor, E. T. Wherry, of the Bureau of Chemistry, Washington; and Councilors, A. S. Eakle, of the University of California (1 year); F. R. Van Horn, of the Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland (2 years); F. E. Wright, of the Carnegie Geophysical Laboratory, Washington (3 years); and A. H. Phillips, of Princeton University (4 years).

The formation of a society whose object is to promote and foster the mineralogical sciences comes at a time when there is a distinct need in this country for such a body. The growing importance of this field of research, already felt to a marked degree in the period preceding the war, has now with the necessary curtailing of scientific activity in Europe, assumed scope and size. It is acknowledged by observers of the trend of events that scientific prestige has come to abide in America rather than in the countries of the Old World. No more keenly is this tendency sensed than in those industries which are demanding trained workers in crystallography and physical mineralogy for their research laboratories. If then, science is to keep pace with industry in this period of reconstruction and if our universities and technical schools are to supply to the increasing stream of students coming to us from abroad, the high standard of scientific education which has come to be demanded of us, it is eminently right and fitting that such specialized bodies as the Mineralogical Society of America should be formed and fostered.

HERBERT P. WHITLOCK,
Secretary

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE
SECTION A—MATHEMATICS AND ASTRONOMY**

INASMUCH as the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America both had meetings at St. Louis during the period of the meeting of the American Association, only one formal meeting was held of Section A. At this meeting, which was a joint meeting with the American Mathematical Society, the following papers were given:

Recent progress in dynamics: PROFESSOR G. D. BIRKHOFF, retiring vice-president of Section A.

Some recent developments in the calculus of variations: PROFESSOR G. A. BLISS, retiring chairman of the Chicago Section of the American Mathematical Society.

A suggestion for the utilization of atmospheric molecular energy: MR. H. H. PLATT.

What has been heretofore Section A has been divided into two sections, "A"—Mathematics, and "B"—Astronomy. The officers of Section A are as follows:

Vice-president—D. R. Curtiss, Northwestern University.

Secretary—Wm. H. Roever, Washington University.

Members of Sectional Committee—5 years, Dunham Jackson, University of Minnesota; 4 years, A. D. Pitchard, Western Reserve University; 3 years, G. A. Bliss, University of Chicago; 2 years, James Page, University of Virginia; 1 year, H. L. Rietz, University of Iowa.

Member of the Council—G. A. Miller, University of Illinois.

Member of General Committee—E. V. Huntington, Harvard University.

The officers of Section B are:

Vice-president—Joel Stebbins, University of Illinois.

Secretary—F. R. Moulton, University of Chicago.

Members of the Sectional Committee—5 years, Philip Fox, Northwestern University; 4 years, H. N. Russell, Princeton University; 3 years, Harlow Shapley, Solar Observatory; 2 years, H. D. Curtis, Lick Observatory; 1 year, J. M. Poor, Dartmouth College.

Member of the Council—S. A. Mitchell, University of Virginia.

Member of General Committee—E. B. Frost, Yerkes Observatory.

F. R. MOULTON,
Secretary

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